

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 19 are pending and under consideration in the present application; Claims 1, 9 and 15 having been amended; and Claims 5, 8, 14 and 20 having been cancelled by way of the present amendment. No new matter is introduced.

The outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious based on **Christenbery** (US 2,800,635) in view of **Pohjola** (US 5,997,338), and claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 as obvious based on **Christenbery** in view of **Pohjola** and further in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241).

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious based on **Christenbery** (US 2,800,635) in view of **Pohjola** (US 5,997,338). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 9 as amended recite the feature that: "said contacts are at least partially hollow, each of said contacts having a central aperture therein configured to receive one of said leads of said light source within said aperture and *laterally surrounded by said aperture*", and independent claim 15 as amended similarly recites the feature of "said step of connecting said leads further comprising inserting each said lead into a central aperture within each said contact, such that *each said lead is laterally surrounded by each said central aperture*" (*emphasis added*).

Neither **Christenbery** nor **Pohjola** teaches or suggests hollow contacts that laterally surround the leads of a light source, or the step of insertion of such leads into such contacts, as per the above claimed features. The light sources 44 of **Christenbery** are without any leads, and

employ snap-on sockets 10 to attach to cord 42. **Pohjola**, on the other hand, employs pins 9a to perforate conductors 2 in the embodiment of FIG. 5, but still fails to teach or suggest that pins 9a are hollow or that they receive the leads 13 of the light source 12.

Consequently, independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 patentably define over **Christenbery** and **Pohjola**, whether taken separately or in combination, and are therefore allowable, together with Claims 2-4, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 19 that depend therefrom.

Claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on **Christenbery** in view of **Pohjola** and further in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

These claims depend from independent Claims 1, 9 and 15. As the independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, and as **Komai** also fails to teach or suggest either "said contacts are at least partially hollow, each of said contacts having a central aperture therein configured to receive one of said leads of said light source within said aperture and laterally surrounded by said aperture" or "said step of connecting said leads further comprising inserting each said lead into a central aperture within each said contact, such that each said lead is laterally surrounded by each said central aperture".

**Komai** shows contacts 119, 120 of an insulation displacement type, and which receive leads, but the lead-receiving channels 140, 142 of contacts 119, 120 are not central apertures configured to *laterally surround* the leads. Instead they are horseshoe-shaped, so as to receive leads with different spacings. Nor are contacts 119, 120 or spikes 121, 123 thereof *hollow* as presently claimed. See, for example, FIG. 6 and 7 and column 4, line 53 - column 5, line 3 of **Komai**:

The embodiment of FIG. 6 further includes first and second cavities 131, 133, formed in a recessed area 117 shown as an arcuate cutaway in the end of the cover 113. These cavities 131,

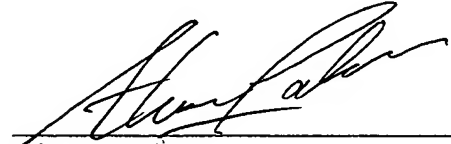
133 receive respective contact elements 119, 120, for establishing electrical contact to feed wires 73, 75. The contact elements 119, 120 are each of a horseshoe-shaped cross-section as shown in FIG. 7, providing respective interior lead receiving channels 140, 142, and respective electrically conductive spikes 121, 123. The channels 140, 142 permit the device 11 to accommodate lamps having various pin spacings  $d_1$  between respective pins 125. FIG. 6 further illustrates the contacts 119, 120 in place with spikes 121, 123 piercing the insulation layer of respective feed wires 73, 75 so as to establish electrical contact with the conductor portions thereof. It may be noted that the "horseshoe" openings of the contacts 119, 120 will typically be relatively narrow in practice so as to accommodate contact pins of a very small diameter such as 0.020 inches.

Claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 are therefore allowable over the combination of **Christenbery, Pohjola and Komai**, as none of these references, whether taken separately or in combination, teaches or suggests the above recited features of independent claims 1, 9 and 15 from which they depend.

Consequently, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

  
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